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**OFFICIAL**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**Applicant:** Poole, Mark E.

**Serial No.:** 09/818,470

**Title of Invention:** APPARATUS FOR CONNECTING AND SEALING DUCT  
SECTIONS

**Filing Date:** March 28, 2001

**Group Art Unit:** 3679

**Examiner:** Dunwoody, Aaron M.

FAX RECEIVED

SEP 19 2002

GROUP 3700

Yakima, Washington 98902  
September 19, 2002

TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington D.C. 20231

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on June 19, 2002, please reconsider the amended claims of the application in view of the following discussion. The three month, shortened statutory response period for the above listed application expires September 19, 2002. This response filed by telephonic facsimile within the three month statutory period, per 37 CFR §§1.7 and 1.10, is timely transmitted on Thursday, September 19, 2002. No fees should be necessitated by this response. However, authorization is given to charge the customer account 50-0269, any charges that may be required in regards to the present response.